Extracted from CALFED Programmatic Decision Document

Watershed Program

The Watershed Program provides assistance, financial and technical, to local watershed programs that benefit the Bay-Delta system. The Watershed Program includes the following elements:

- Support local watershed activities - Implement watershed restoration, maintenance, and conservation activities that support the goals and objectives of the Program including improved river functions.
- Facilitate coordination and assistance - Facilitate and improve coordination and assistance between government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.
- Develop watershed monitoring and assessment protocols - Facilitate monitoring efforts that are consistent with the CALFED's protocols and support watershed activities that ensure that adaptive management processes can be applied.
- Support education and outreach - Support resource conservation education at the local watershed level, and provide organizational and administrative support to watershed programs.
- Define watershed processes and relationships - Identify the watershed functions and processes that are relevant to the CALFED goals and objectives, and provide examples of watershed activities that could improve these functions and processes.

Storage

New storage will be developed and constructed, together with aggressive implementation of water conservation, recycling and a protective water transfer market, as appropriate to meet CALFED Program goals. During Stage 1, CALFED will evaluate and determine the appropriate mix of surface water and groundwater storage, identify acceptable projects and initiate permitting and construction if program linkages and conditions are satisfied.

Decisions to construct storage will be predicated upon complying with all program linkages, including:

- Completion of the Integrated Storage Investigation which includes an assessment of groundwater storage, surface storage, re-operation of power facilities and a fish barrier assessment;
- Demonstrated progress in meeting the Program's water use efficiency, water reclamation and water transfer program targets;
- Implementation of groundwater monitoring and modeling programs; and
- Compliance with all environmental review and permitting requirements.

The total volume of surface and groundwater storage being assessed for this alternative range up to 6.25 million acre feet, and facility locations being considered are located in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and in the Delta.

Conveyance

The through-Delta conveyance facility actions include:

- construction of a new screened intake at Clifton Court Forebay with protective screening criteria;
- construction of either a new screened diversion at Tracy with protective screening criteria; and/or an expansion of the new diversion at Clifton Court Forebay to meet the Tracy Pumping Plant export capacity;
- implementation of the Joint Point of Diversion for the SWP and CVP, and construction of interties;
- construction of an operable barrier at the head of Old River to improve conditions for salmon migrating up and down the San Joaquin River;
- construction of operable barriers, or their equivalent, to maintain water stage and water quality in south Delta channels;
- operational changes to the SWP operating rules to allow export pumping up to the current physical capacity of the SWP export facilities
- determination of operating criteria for the Delta Cross Channel;

The CALFED fish and wildlife agencies are concerned that implementation of these features would be detrimental to a variety of aquatic species. They are developing information which would be used in a decision on whether these features should remain a part of the preferred program alternative or be eliminated entirely.

- Study and evaluate a screened diversion structure on the Sacramento River. This evaluation would consider how to operate the Delta Cross Channel in conjunction with this new diversion structure to achieve the optimum balance between improving Delta water quality while maintaining a fishery recovery strategy.
- If the evaluation indicates that a screened diversion would help achieve CALFED's goal to provide good water quality for all beneficial purposes, and can be operated without adversely impacting fishery populations in the Delta, a pilot diversion structure including pumps and a channel between the Sacramento and the Mokelumne Rivers would be constructed. This pilot facility would be evaluated in conjunction with the DCC operations. The capacity of the pilot facility would be sized through a more detailed analysis, but a maximum capacity of 4000 cfs will be considered. Following evaluation of pilot facility operations, a final decision would be made on whether the diversion channel and structure should continue to be used, and if so, what the operational rules and optimum size of the diversion should be.

- Construct new setback levees or dredging along the Mokelumne River from Interstate 5 downstream to the San Joaquin River.